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July 16, 2021

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Eric Magnan, P.E., Manager Water Section I
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, ENF-3-1
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Magnan:

UNPLANNED DISCHARGE TO 1-MILE OUTFALL OF RAW SEWAGE ON JULY 11 AND 12, 2021- CITY OF LOS ANGELES, HYPERION TREATMENT PLANT- NPDES NO. CA0109991, ORDER NO. R4-2017-0045

On July 11, 2021 an excessive amount of debris from unknown origin suddenly accumulated on barscreens at the Headworks of Hyperion, resulting in the flooding of the plant and raw sewage overflow to 1-Mile Outfall. This resulted in approximately 17 million gallons (MG) of raw sewage reaching the ocean through the 1-Mile Outfall. City staff are investigating the source of the excessive debris.

Around noon on July 11, Hyperion's Headworks screening facility began experiencing problems. Operators first noticed Headworks water level upstream of the barscreens was rising. This unusual rise in the water level may have been an early indication of plugging of the barscreens as debris accumulated and obstructed the flow of sewage through the barscreens and into the treatment process.

The water level upstream of the barscreens continued to rise as operators worked to determine the cause of the problem. There were four barscreens in service during this time and another four barscreens on stand-by. Barscreens stopped working (or tripped on high torque) due to the plugging. Other barscreens on standby were placed on line but also tripped. Eventually, all barscreens tripped and went offline.

By 3:00 PM the Headworks facility was overwhelmed and some raw sewage began to overflow out of the Headworks building and into the streets within Hyperion, flooding the plant. Raw sewage from the street within Hyperion flowed into the plant's contaminated storm drain system (CSD #1 and CSD #2) and into the pipe gallery and pump rooms below ground. Hyperion's

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storm drain system normally collects and pumps accumulated water back to the Headworks, with the excess water passively overflowing to 1-Mile Outfall. Cover plates by the aerated grit basins, in front of primary tanks and effluent pumping plant were also opened to minimize flooding and allow raw sewage to flow into liquid processes for treatment.

Around 7:00 pm in the evening, excess sewage from the storm drain system began to overflow to the 1-Mile Outfall. Throughout the evening, Hyperion continued to work on removing the bulkhead upstream of the Emergency Bypass Channel.

Around 4:30 am, on Monday July 12, the bulkhead was finally removed allowing incoming sewage to bypass the barscreens and flow into downstream treatment processes while crews continued to work on the jammed barscreens.

At 8:40 am, on July 12, with two barscreens back in service and the emergency bypass channel open, flow to 1-Mile Outfall finally stopped. It is estimated that up to 17 MG of raw sewage flowed into the ocean of which 16.874 MG overflowed to 1-mile outfall (CSD #1 - 0.134 MG and CSD #2 - 16.74 MG) and the rest to 5-Mile Outfall (0.08 MG).

Hyperion staff is currently dewatering the flooded areas throughout the plant, assessing the damage and working to return the treatment process back to normal.

If you require any additional information, please contact me at (310) 648-5555 or Hi Sang Kim of my staff at (310) 648-5507.

Sincerely,



Timeyin Dafeta, Hyperion Executive Plant Manager
LA Sanitation and Environment

TD/HK

c: Becky Mitschele, USEPA
Hi-Sang Kim, LASAN
Ronald Bell, LASAN